

passin' things, an' soon after I got there Myra crooked her finger toward me, an' I follered her out into the kitchen, an' she was kind o' upset because the ice-cream an' sherbut hadn't come yet.

"I ordered it for seven o'clock, so as to have it here good an' early, an' I'm real worried about it."

"Just at that minute her bell rang, an' she went to the tube an' says: 'What's wantin'?"

"An' a man called up an' says: 'Is this where M. L. Dodd lives?"

"It is," says Myra. "An' are you the man with the ice-cream an' sherbut for a party I'm givin'?"

"He said he was, an' pretty soon he an' another man begun luggin' firkins of ice-cream up all packed in ice. Myra rushed into her pantry, an' was gittin' her plates down—an' she'd borrowed right an' left. They lugged up stuff there until we could hardly move around for it, an' when Myra an' me an' one or two other wimmen begun to git the stuff out, behold you there was ice-cream an' sherbut in ev'ry kind o' fancy shape, an' there was elegant little cakes all iced over in colors an' a big ice-cream swan—oh, elegant! An' not only that, but salads an' such stuff, an' presently Myra clapped her hands an' says: 'Jim!'

"Jim?" says I.

"I'd another letter from Jim this mornin'," says Myra. "An' he wrote again that he would help out on the refreshments, an' that he had planned a little s'prise for Minty—an' this is his s'prise! Ain't it fine of him? He can afford it, too, with his sixteen dollars a week an' only hisself to think of. I tell you but he's a son an' brother worth havin'! I guess this court never saw no such refreshments as this at a party. Just look at this rabbit made out of rozberry sherbut! Ain't it too elegant?"

"I never did see anyone more set up than she was over them refreshments, an' she was almost bustin' with pride as she passed 'em around, an' she urged ev'ryone to have a second helpin', sayin': 'There's a plenty. This is Minty's brother Jim's treat. Some of you may not know that Jim is my son who lives in Springfield, where he has a fine position.'

"Well, the folks did eat hearty. To tell the truth, most of 'em had never eat such refreshments before."

"I never had my own self, an' Myra kep' feelin' prouder ev'ry minute—when all of a sudden the bell rung again, an' when Myra went to the tube a man calls up an' says: 'I got some ice-cream an' sherbut here for you. I got the wrong address an' took it three miles out o' the way. Party of the same name as yours.'

"Well, Myra she turned a kind of a pea green, an' she clapped one hand to her heart when she says: 'Well, for pity's sake!'

"She might well say it, for the next minute two men come up the stairs, an' one of 'em says: 'There was a great blunder made here awhile ago. A lot of refreshments intended for the Honorable M. L. Dodd over on Evergreen-ave. was delivered here through some mistake, maybe because both was ordered from the same place and the names happenin' to be just the same. Mr. Dodd is givin' a party to more than a hundred guests, an' I want those refreshments just as soon as I can get 'em.'

"I thought Myra Dodd would drop! She fairly gasped for breath when she said: 'I—I—m very sorry, but you—you—can't have 'em!'

"Can't have 'em! Why not?" says the man.

"Because we—we—we've eat 'em all up!" says Myra, her vauntin' pride droppin' as low as it had riz high a little while before.

"The man he got sassy, an' some o' the young men at the party put him out, an' there come mighty nigh bein' a free fight. The police come in, but they concluded it was a too-mixed-up affair for them to fool with, so they left, an' just then who should drop in but Jim, Myra's son. He had planned to come home for the party as a s'prise to

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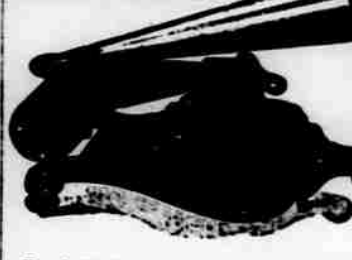
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Minty; but his train had been delayed because of a wreck; an' he never got home until the affair was nearly over with. Him an' Myra both looked mighty sick when they found out that them refreshments we had eat up cost seventy-five dollars. If Myra Dodd didn't eat humble pie no one ever did."

"And who had to pay for the refreshments?"

"That ain't settled yet, an' they say Myra can't be made to pay for 'em. When some one piles a lot of eatables into a body's house the natch'el inference is they are to be eat. I reckon likely the express company that mixed the two orders, or the ice-cream firm that mixed 'em up, will have to stand the loss. All I know is that Bragg's-ct. had one of the most elegant feeds it ever had, an' what tickled me most was to think of us settin' there a-gawmin' down the Honorable Mr. Dodd's vittles, an' his guests goin' home hungry, like enough. Did you ever hear of such a mix-up in all the born days of your life?"

"I never did."

"I never, I know that. It had a real comic side to it too, an' I'm one that allus sees the comic side of a thing, an' I never was more tickled than I was when that man come for the Honorable Mr. Dodd's fine vittles an' says: 'Where are they?' An' the idee of where them vittles was did tickle me. I reckon you want the stockin's washed all by themselves, don't you? Some folks mix 'em right up with the colored things, but I prefer washin' them by themselves. That rench water about blue enough? I guess I'll go out an' stretch the clothes-line. Hee, hee, hee! I'm still thinkin' o' that man sayin': 'Where are they?' in regards to them party vittles."

AN ECONOMIC PASSAGE

F. N. DOUBLEDAY the publisher is no midget. Oliver Herford, on the other hand, has never been known to pose as a giant. The two met casually one evening in a theater lobby, and Doubleday chanced to mention that he was thinking of going to Europe soon. "I haven't made up my mind how I'll go yet," he added.

"If I was as long as you are," said Herford, peering up at him in the manner of a man examining the Flatiron Building, "I'd balance a basket of food on my head and wade."

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